

REMARKS**Election/Restriction**

The withdrawn claims each comprise the same technical features as elected claim 1. Hence, elected claim 1 is a generic linking claim. Upon the allowance of claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-2 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koike (US4919388).

Koike (abstract) relates to a plastics shaping mold comprising a layer of hardened resin material fixedly superposed on a metal mold and defining an uneven shaping surface for forming an uneven surface pattern on plastic articles. The plastics shaping mold is prepared by a method comprising the steps of superposing a resin material in a fluid state on a master in sheet form defining an uneven surface inverse to the uneven shaping surface to be formed, allowing the resin material to harden and removing the master, thereby to form the layer of hardened resin material defining the uneven shaping surface.

Please note Fig. 5 of Applicant's patent application in comparison to the figures of Koike.

Note that in Koike, the hardened material 2 entirely covers metal mold 1.

However, as depicted in Fig. 5 of Applicant's patent application, the support layer 1 (comprised of a metal material) forms the bottom surface of the cells as explained at p. 8, lines 32- p. 10, line 1.

Each of the independent claims have been amended to include this feature. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakada (JP10321126) in view of Koike.

Koike fails to teach “a master mold comprising a support layer comprised of a metal material and a fine structure pattern comprised of a glass or ceramic material supported by said support layer; wherein the support layer material has a lower grinding speed than the material of the fine structure pattern and the support layer forms bottom portions of the fine structure pattern”, as just explained.

Nakada (JP10321126) fails to overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference.

Reconsideration and a timely allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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